

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A SCIENTIFIC INITIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Title: Research Initiation Scholarship - NETEDGE Project; 1 vacancy

Reference: NETEDGE-BII-01-2022

There is an open competition for the attribution of a Research Initiation Grant, within the scope of the R&D project “NETEDGE - EDgE computing for end-users of optical Networks” SI I&DT Copromoção, Nr. 069977, with the reference POCI-01-0247-FEDER-069977, financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), through the Operational Program for Competitiveness and Internationalization (POCI) – COMPETE 2020, and by national funds, through the National Agency of Innovation, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Informatics Engineering.

Category of the candidates: Students enrolled in a bachelor's or master's degree integrated in the scientific area of the public notice.

Requirements for granting the fellowship:

- Only scholarships will be contracted whose selected candidates present valid proof of enrollment in the degree-conferring course, according to the type of scholarship in competition, issued by the academic services of the Higher Education Institution, respectively with the indication of the current academic year or its duration (start and end).
- Candidates may apply without prior enrollment in the course for which the scholarship is open. The enrollment requirement for a degree-conferring course will be verified on the date of contracting the scholarship.

Candidates profile:

- a) Undergraduate or integrated master's students, in the scientific area of the public notice.
- b) Knowledge of Python or C/C++ programming language, Linux environment, and virtualization technologies and containers.
- c) In the contractualization phase, the selected candidate must prove enrollment in a Bachelor's or Integrated Master's degree, in the scientific area of the public notice.

Applicants eligibility: Applicants must comply with the eligibility conditions laid down in article 9 of the Research Fellowships Regulation of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2019).

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

The selected candidate will join the development team of a Multiple Access Edge Computing Platform (MEC Platform), within the scope of the research project “NETEDGE - EDgE computing for end-users of Optical Networks”. The aforementioned platform is being developed mainly in Python and implements ETSI MEC standards. The resulting code will be open source and a permissive license (e.g. Apache 2.0) will be adopted to encourage collaboration with universities, research centers and other entities. The evaluation of the work will be continuous, through periodic meetings for this purpose.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellowship Holder Statutes, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current version published by Decree-Law no. 123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd series, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021 and Regulation of Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the Algoritmi Research Group of the University of Minho, under the scientific supervision of the Researcher Vinícius Corrêa Ferreira.

Fellowship duration: The scholarship will have a maximum duration of 6 months, starting in January 2023 and ending, without fail, on June 30, 2023.

Amount of the research grant: The value stipend (Monthly Maintenance Allowance) varies in accordance with the stipends values published by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT I.P.) in the country (Annex I – Monthly Stipends Values for the maintenance allowances of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships) and Annex II of the Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd series, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, according to the applicable regulation.

- **Research Initiation Scholarship:** 486.12 euros.

Payment is made on the 23st of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contractualization process.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security (Social Security contributions), corresponding to the 1st level of discounts and personal accident insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The fellow will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel:

The Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the jury: Helena Fernández López, Researcher at the ALGORITMI Center at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho and Visiting Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho.

Effective Member: Vinícius Corrêa Ferreira, Assistant Researcher at the ALGORITMI center at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho.

Effective Member: Paulo Jorge Nicolau Araújo, Researcher at the ALGORITMI center at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho and Invited Assistant at the Department of Information Systems at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho.

Substitute member: José Augusto Afonso, Researcher at Centro Algoritmi, Assistant Professor at the Department of Industrial Electronics at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho.

Deputy Member: Óscar Sílvio Marques de Almeida Gama, Researcher at Centro Algoritmi, Guest Professor at the Department of Informatics at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho.

In case of impediment, the President of the Jury may be replaced by the first effective member or by the second effective member; in case of impediment of the first or the second effective member, this will be replaced by the designated substitute members.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection:

The evaluation of applications will focus on the Candidate's Merit (MC), applying the following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale from 0 to 20 values:

- A: Motivation letter, with a weighting of 20%.
- B: Curriculum evaluation, with a weighting of 30%.
- C: Partial classification in the course, with a weighting of 50%.

The classification of the MC¹ will be obtained by applying the following formula:

¹ The jury may adjust the weightings.

The jury must decide whether all candidates are interviewed or, alternatively, must identify the criteria to be applied to the set of candidates to be interviewed and their valuation (for example; select the first 4 candidates ranked in the APCC ordered list).

$$MC = (A \times 0.2) + (B \times 0.3) + (C \times 0.5).$$

Candidates who score less than 9.5 in the MC are considered excluded.

The academic degrees and diplomas documents, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions are not mandatory in the application phase, being replaced by a declaration of honour of the candidate with the contents of academic results. The documents of academic qualification or respective recognition will be required in the contracting phase and must attest facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If the documents proving the ownership of the academic degree and diploma, or the respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path, which can change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship won't be contracted.

Note: *Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the selection panel will assign "0" in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.*

Disclosure of results: The provisional results of applications, based in the selection panel minutes, will be sent to the applicants by email until 90 working days from the applications deadline.

If case of unfavourable results, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in a prior hearing to interested parties, pursuant to articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL no. 4 / 2015 of January 7th).

Complaint and appeal procedures: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list (*alphabetically, by final grade obtained*), posted in a visible and public place of the host unit, as well as by email to all applicants, enclosing for that purpose, the minutes of the jury deliberations.

The selected candidate must express in writing the intention to accept the scholarship. In case of non-acceptance, the scholarship will be awarded to the candidate in order of final ranking.

The final decision can be contested within 15 working days, by sending to the President of the jury the corresponding claim. Interested parties may also submit an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, Professor Sandra Paiva.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open from 29/12/2022 a 12/01/2023. Applications must be formalised, obligatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents: curriculum vitae; certificate of qualifications or declaration of the candidate, attendance or approval of the curricular units of the degree and the master's or integrated master's degree; other documents relevant to the evaluation process.

Applications must be sent by email to recrutamento@algoritmi.uminho.pt, indicating the reference of the call for applications in Subject. Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

Fellowship contractualization: The granting of the scholarship takes place through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship holder, in accordance with the contract draft (Annex IV of the Regulation of Scientific Research Scholarships of the University of Minho – order n.º 6524/2020 of 06-22-2020, rectified through declaration of rectification no. 447/2021 of 06-22-2021) in its updated version in accordance with point 2.4 of the “Standards for the Attribution and Management of Scholarships within the scope of Research Projects R&D, including infrastructure projects, the multiannual financing program for R&D units and other FCT financing instruments (Version 2021)”.

The contract can only be concluded after receipt of all required documentation depending on the type of scholarship, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months.

After receiving all the documentation, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to sign the scholarship agreement. Once received by the scholarship holder, he must return the duly signed contract within 15 working days.

Scholarship contracts can only begin after due authorization from the contracting entity.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other causes provided the fellowship regulations (FCT and UMinho) and in the Statute of the Research Fellow, the fellowship ends with the completion of the work plan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed.

At the end of the fellowship, the grantee is obliged to present a Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the scientific advisor, within 30 days after the end of the scholarship.

The **final report** must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the Scientific Research Fellowships Regulation of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd series, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, rectified by rectification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.

ANNEXES:

**Declaration of Honor
Academic habilitations**

(Full name), applicant to the research fellowship vacancy under the I&D project **(title or reference of the project)**, published in the Euraxess portal, reference **(notice reference)**, hereby declares to have a degree on **(name of the course)**, concluded in the University of **(name the University that awarded the degree)**, on the **(degree conclusion date XX/XX/XXXX)**, with the final grade of **(XXXX)**.

I have submitted my diploma for recognition at the University of XXXXX, according to the Decree-Law nº 66/2018 of August 16th⁽²⁾, concluded in the **(degree conclusion date XX/XX/XXXX)**, with the final grade of **(XXXX)**, on a scale from **(XX to YY)**.

I also declare that I commit to provide proof of my diploma recognition obtained under the Portuguese Law, until the date of the conclusion of the fellowship contract, in case of being selected for the vacancy in this competition.

As this is true, this declaration will be dated and signed by me.

(Place), (date),

(Full name)

² DGES (Foreign Degrees and Diplomas): <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition?plid=1536>;
University of Minho: Recognition of foreign degrees and diplomas:
<https://www.uminho.pt/EN/education/Pages/recognition-of-foreign-qualifications.aspx>